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13. — *The Newcomes. Memoirs of a Most Respectable Family.* Edited by ARTHUR PENDENNIS, Esq. Two volumes in one. New York: Harper and Brothers. 1855. pp. 210, 202.

THIS is by far the best of Thackeray's stories. In his earlier works, the scornful has taken precedence of the humane element. His aim has been to satirize pretension, folly, and fashionable vice rather than to present aught that could challenge admiration or deserve imitation. Here the prominent personages command our entire sympathy, and the leading character our profound reverence; while the baser traits of secondary actors are softened and relieved by the admixture of good which is seldom wanting in actual life. Only this was needed to give Thackeray, as a novelist, the vantage-ground over Dickens; for there can be no difference of opinion as to his superiority in the command of language and in artistical resources and skill.

14. — 1. *The Poetical Works of EDMUND SPENSER. The Text carefully revised, and illustrated with Notes, Original and Selected,* by FRANCIS J. CHILD. In five volumes. Boston: Little, Brown, & Co. 1855. 16mo.
2. *The British Essayists. With Prefaces, Historical and Biographical,* by A. CHALMERS, F. S. A. *Tatler.* In four volumes. Boston: Little, Brown, & Co. 1855. 16mo.

WE owe it to ourselves, less than to publishers who need not our aid, to put on record our high sense of the liberal and generous enterprise that has prompted these republications. Professor Child's labors on the edition of the British Poets, now in the course of publication, display thorough research, minute accuracy, and keen critical acumen. The present issue of Spenser is "gold twice refined," its basis being that published under the superintendence of Mr. Hillard in 1839, with at least an equal amount of labor bestowed in bringing it to its present form.

The edition of the "British Essayists," of which the first four volumes are before us, in an exact reprint of the London edition of 1823, in a style which, we trust, will induce the resort of a new generation to writings which have borne so prominent part, and to so good a purpose, in forming the literary opinions, taste, and style of a very large proportion of our best authors and most highly cultivated men.